

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

VICTORIA

LITERARY INSTITUTE;

ADOPTED AT A PUBLIC MEETING, 26TH OCTOBER, 1861.

VICTORIA:
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ARTICLE I.

NAME AND OBJECT.

SECTION 1. This Association shall be known as the "VICTORIA LITERARY INSTITUTE," and shall have for its object the formation of a Library, Reading Room and Museum; the delivery of Lectures, and the diffusion of Literary and Scientific Knowledge among the people of Victoria.

ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. The *Capital Stock* of this Institute shall be Twenty Thousand Dollars, or such further sum as may be fixed upon hereafter (in shares of twenty-five dollars each), which shall be expended in the purchase, or lease, or rent, of suitable premises in Victoria, and the erection thereon, or purchase, or lease, or rent, of a proper building or hall for the uses of the Institute, and in the purchase of Books, Charts, Magazines, Newspapers, Maps, Scientific Apparatus and materials for the Museum.

SEC. 2. The shares of stock shall be signed by the President and Secretary, and countersigned by the Treasurer of the Institute.

SEC. 3. Donations in money to the Victoria Literary Institute shall be added to the capital stock and used for the same purposes, or shall be applied to meet the current expenses, as a majority of the Board of Directors may decide.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. Any person may become a "Shareholder" in this Institute by purchasing a share therein, and by paying One Dollar per month, in advance.

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Sec. 2. Any person may become a "Subscribing Member," with all the privileges of a Shareholder, by paying an entrance fee of Five Dollars, and a subscription of One Dollar per month, in advance.

Sec. 3. Shareholders and Subscribing Members must sign the Constitution and By-Laws of the Institute previous to voting.

Sec. 4. If the Dues of any member remain unpaid for three months, his privileges and rights of membership shall be forfeited unless his delinquency be excused by the Board of Directors.

Sec. 5. Persons may be elected Honorary Members by the Board of Directors and such persons shall be entitled to all the privileges of regular membership, excepting the right to vote and hold office.

Sec. 6. Any person paying One Hundred Dollars at any one time, shall become a Life Member, and receive a certificate, with all the privileges and rights of a Shareholder, without being subject to entrance fees or subscriptions.

ARTICLE IV.

ELECTIONS.

Section 1. All elections shall be by ballot, except when otherwise ordered, and shall be made by such of the members (that is: Shareholders, Subscribing Members and Life Members) as shall attend for that purpose in person. Each member shall be entitled to one vote, and the person or persons having the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

Sec. 2. After the first election, the election of the Board of Directors shall take place annually, on the second Tuesday of November in each year, and shall be held under the superintendence of three judges, selected from the members by the Board of Directors for the time being, and at least ten days notice shall be given of such election in the newspapers.

Sec. 3. In case, from any cause, the election of the Board of Directors should not take place upon the day fixed for the Constitution, it shall be the duty of the Board for the time being, to give notice for an election to take place as soon thereafter as may be from the date upon which the election should have been held; and in such case, the officers of the Institute shall be in office until such election has been held and successors appointed.

Sec. 4. The Board of Directors shall enter upon the performance of its duties on the day following its election.

Sec. 6. Librarians and subordinate officers, shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to hold office during the pleasure of the Board.

ARTICLE V.

COMPENSATION.

Section 1. No pecuniary compensation shall be allowed the Board of Directors of this Institute.

Sec. 2. Librarians, subordinate officers and Clerks, shall be allowed such compensation as the Board of Directors from time to time may determine upon.

ARTICLE VI.

VACANCIES.

SECTION 1. If any vacancies should occur in the Board of Directors, the Board shall have power to fill the same.

ARTICLE VII.

OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The affairs of this Institute shall be managed by a Board consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Directors, to be elected annually; no member to hold the office of President or Vice President for more than two successive years.

Sec. 2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Institute and of the Board of Directors, and preserve order therein; and in case of an equal division of members upon any question, shall give the casting vote.

Sec. 3. The President shall have power to call special meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Institute whenever he may deem it expedient.

Sec. 4. The President, at the expiration of his term of office, or oftener if requested by the Institute, shall make a written report of the general doings of the Institute, and suggest such means as may seem to him best calculated to promote its prosperity.

Sec. 5. The Vice President shall preside and perform all the duties of the office of President in the absence or disqualification of that officer, and, in absence of both, the Board or Institute shall choose its own Chairman.

Sec. 6. The Secretary shall be the organ of the Institute in its correspondence with other societies and with the public. He shall record all letters or advertisements, written or issued by him, in a book kept for that purpose. He shall affix his name to all advertisements and notices from the President, Board of Directors, or from the Institute. He shall attend all meetings, and in the absence of the President and Vice President shall call the same to order, and shall truly and at large, record the proceedings of the Board of Directors, together with the proceedings of the Institute, in books kept for that purpose.

Sec. 7. The Treasurer shall hold all the funds of the Institute (except the property invested in the names of the Trustees), subject to the written order of the majority of the Board of Directors. He shall pay no bill unless authorised by the Board of Directors and signed by the President and Secretary. He shall make a monthly report, exhibiting in detail his receipts and payments, (producing vouchers) and the balance in the treasury, and if invested, how. He shall keep a regular account of the financial concerns of the Institute, an abstract of

which account he shall exhibit at each Annual meeting. On resigning or being suspended from office, he shall hand over to his successor all books, vouchers, and other papers of the Institute in his possession.

SEC. 9. The Board of Directors shall be invested with full power to appropriate funds for the use of the Institute, enact By-Laws, and conduct the affairs of the Institute. Provided always, that no appropriation of more than Five Hundred Dollars for any one object shall be made without the assent of the Institute.

SEC. 10. A permanent removal from Victoria will disqualify an officer from exercising his office, and will be equivalent to a tender of resignation on his part.

ARTICLE VIII.

TRUSTEES.

SECTION 1. The property of the Institute shall be invested in the names of three Trustees, who shall be elected by the members at the first general meeting, to hold office for life, or until legally disqualified.

SEC. 2. No officer of the Institute can be a Trustee.

SEC. 3. If a Trustee should die or become disqualified his successor shall be elected by the members in the same way in which they elect their other officers.

SEC. 4. The Trustees shall have all the privileges and rights of Honorary Members of this Institute.

ARTICLE IX.

MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Institute on the second Tuesday of November, for the purpose of receiving the Reports of the Treasurer and Board of Directors, exhibiting the state of the Library, Finances and property, and for the transaction of business.

SEC. 2. At all Meetings of the Institute, at least Ten Members must be present for the transaction of business.

SEC. 3. There shall be a Meeting of the Institute on the first Tuesday in every month at such hour as the Board of Directors may appoint.

SEC. 4. The President, at the request of the Board of Directors, or at the written request of twenty-five members, stating the reasons therefor, shall call a Meeting of the Institute for the transaction of special business, giving one day's public notice thereof, and at such meeting nothing but the special business shall be transacted.

ARTICLE X.

FINANCES.

SECTION 1. The funds arising from entrance fees, monthly payments, subscriptions, lectures and other sources not herein named, shall be applied to the purchase of books, payment of current expenses, and otherwise as the Board of Directors shall from time to time direct.

SEC. 2. All drafts, orders and other documents affecting the funds of the Institute, must be authorised by a majority of the Directors, and signed by the President and Secretary.

ARTICLE XI.

NEGLECT OF OFFICIAL DUTY.

SECTION 1. In case of flagrant official misconduct or neglect of duty on the part of a member of the Board, the Directors shall have power, by a vote of two-thirds of their number, to expel the offending member, from which action however an appeal shall be allowed to a called Meeting of the Institute, which shall ratify or annul the proceedings of the Directors as the circumstances of the case may warrant.

ARTICLE XII.

EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.

SECTION 1. If any member shall create a disturbance at any meeting of the Institute, or devise or take part in any measure designedly to injure the Institute, or shall purposely deface the books, building, rooms, or the appurtenances thereof, or shall wilfully transgress the rules of order, or the regulations of the Library and Reading Room, on written complaint of five members, a meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held, and the matter referred to a Committee of three members, who shall investigate the charges and report at a future meeting of the Institute; when, if the charges be made apparent, he shall be reprov'd or deprived of membership, always allowing the accused ample opportunity to excuse or extenuate his character and conduct.

ARTICLE XIII.

ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS.

SECTION 1. The Constitution shall not be altered or amended unless by the votes of two-thirds of the members present at a stated meeting, notice being given one month previously.